JAMES TYNION IV
UNIVERSAL MONSTERS
DANI
BRAD SIMPSON
THE INVISIBLE MAN
ISSUE ONE
DANI 2025

SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT AND IMAGE COMICS PRESENT

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UNIVERSAL MONSTERS

THE INVISIBLE MAN

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ALL RIGHT, YOU FOOLS.
YOU'VE BROUGHT IT ON YOURSELVES.
EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE COME RIGHT IF YOU'D ONLY LEFT ME ALONE.
YOU'VE DRIVEN ME NEAR MADNESS WITH YOUR PEERING THROUGH THE KEYHOLES AND GAPING THROUGH THE CURTAINS.
YOU'RE CRAZY TO KNOW WHO I AM, AREN'T YOU?
ALL RIGHT! I'LL SHOW YOU!
THE LION'S HEAD

THE LION'S HEAD
I THINK I'LL THROTTLE YOU.
CHKK
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.

Universal Pictures
AND
Skybound
PRESENT...
HE WAS ALL EATEN AWAY...

THE INVISIBLE MAN

CHAPTER ONE

AN INVISIBLE MAN CAN RULE THE WORLD

I suppose it began with the Monocaine.

I worked as an assistant in the laboratory of one Doctor Cranley.

A kind, it unambitious chemist who specialized in the development of food preservatives, a burgeoning field with room for a young man to make his mark on the world.

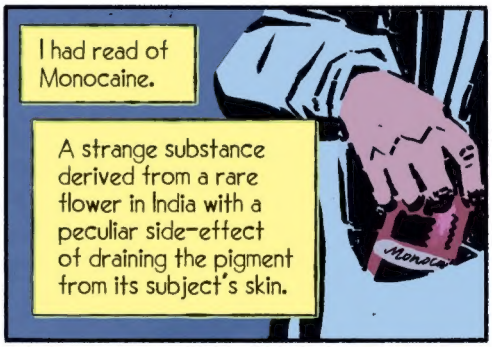
I was tasked with the acquisition of chemicals for our experimentation, and as a curious man, I could not help myself but order a few more notorious substances from our suppliers from time to time.

After all, many of the chemicals we used were toxic to living creatures in higher doses.

Who is to say that a derivative of cyanide could not have a preservative quality?

I had read of Monocaine.

A strange substance derived from a rare flower in India with a peculiar side-effect of draining the pigment from its subject's skin.

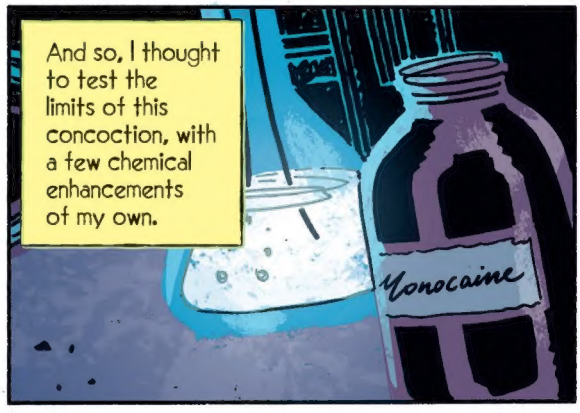


I wanted to see it in action for myself. For the novelty of it, I must admit.

The effects were fairly instantaneous. My rodent subject was drained of pigment with just a small dose.
It seemed more of a chemical parlor trick than anything of use...
But I can't pretend it did not delight me to see this strange white creature in the palm of my hand.
Kemp couldn't contain his natural contempt, and made it clear that he would tell Cranley if I didn't get back to the work at hand.
A detestable, incurious man, with a brutish swagger. I hated to be perceived by him.
How could a man of science not understand the nature of our craft?
The importance of pursuing even our most frivolous fascinations.

I took to working by night, away from Kemp's prying eyes.

What became quickly clear is that my dear white mouse had become quite a bit smarter than his peers. He outperformed them all, night after night.


And so, I thought to test the limits of this concoction, with a few chemical enhancements of my own.
Monocaine

Certainly enough, my suspicions proved correct. The more Monocaine in the rodent's system, the smarter the creature became.

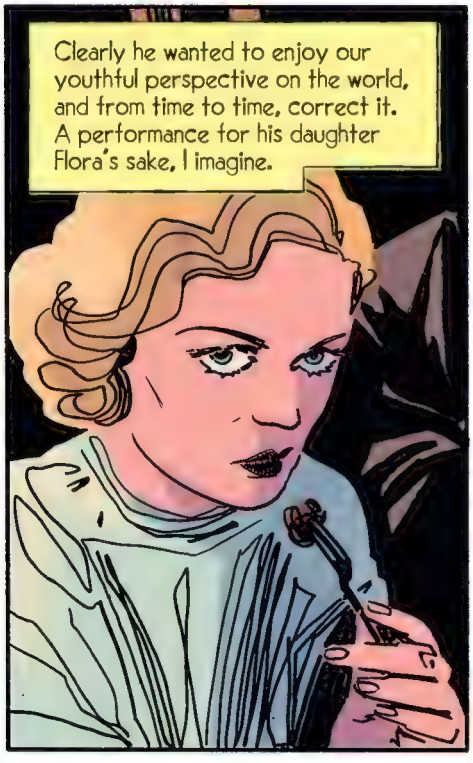
But this was not the only change. At first, I thought my eyes were playing tricks on me, as I was still able to see the creature's hair.

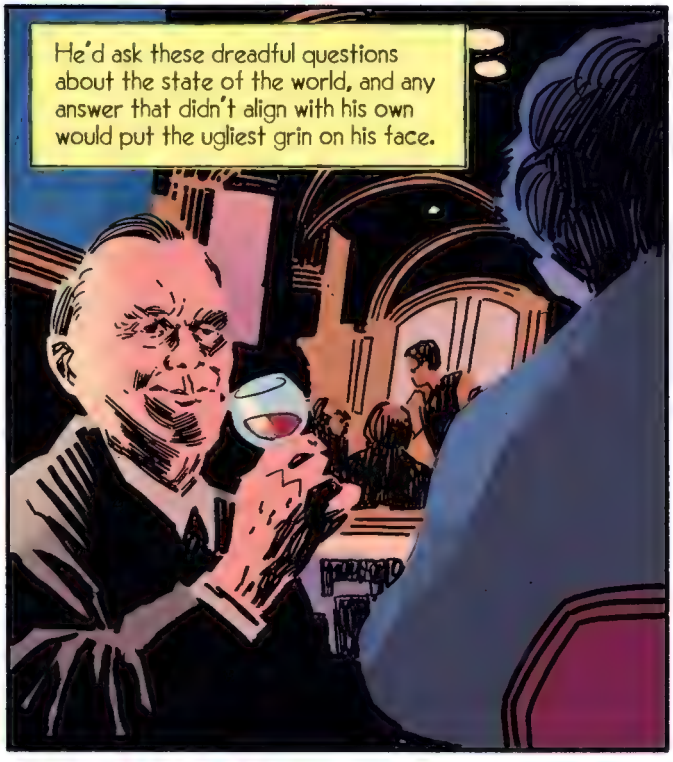
Soon, that too vanished.

The creature had become fully invisible to the human eye.
I had to cover the poor thing in soot to continue my tests, and keep myself from losing it. It had become so damned clever.
It seemed every time I took my eyes off the creature, it would try to make a run for it.
I began to wonder if in time, it could become aware enough to outsmart me.
I won't deny, those early days are some of my fondest memories. Me and that peculiar little animal.
I knew I was on the precipice of greater understanding. It was hard not to let it consume me.

Harder still around the rest of them.

Cranley certainly meant well. Sharing his good fortune with his protégés.


Clearly he wanted to enjoy our youthful perspective on the world, and from time to time, correct it. A performance for his daughter Flora's sake, I imagine.


He'd ask these dreadful questions about the state of the world, and any answer that didn't align with his own would put the ugliest grin on his face.

There were times I wanted to rip it off of him.

I was never the one to speak up.
If I'm honest, I enjoyed slipping into the background of those moments.
My own kind of invisibility, where I was master of my own thoughts, and didn't have to share them with anyone.
My mind was back at the laboratory, with my strange little pet and the secrets in its blood.
None of them understood.
None of them mattered.

HE'S MUTTERING TO HIMSELF AGAIN, LIKE SOME SORT OF MAD MAN.
OH, KEMP. BEHAVE YOURSELF.
HE HAS THIS QUEER WAY OF PLAYING WITH HIS FINGERS. IT'S LIKE HE'S BACK IN THE LABORATORY, MIXING CHEMICALS RIGHT HERE AT THE TABLE.
PERHAPS WE'LL GET SOME SPIRITS TO THE TABLE, AND YOU CAN MIX ME A NICE DRINK.
WAITER!
IF YOU'RE UPSET, SAY SOMETHING.
WHY WOULD I BE UPSET, DEAR? IT'S ALL IN GOOD FUN.
PERHAPS I WILL MAKE DEAR KEMP A DRINK BACK IN THE LABORATORY. I KNOW JUST THE COCKTAIL.

YOU HAVE TO STICK UP FOR YOURSELF, DEAR.
NONSENSE. THERE'S NOTHING TO STICK UP FOR.

FATHER HAS BECOME AWFULLY FOND OF ARTHUR. I ASKED HIM ABOUT YOU, AND HE LIKES YOUR WORK. BUT HE DOESN'T SEE AMBITION IN IT.

I THOUGHT YOUR FATHER HATED MEN JUST LOOKING TO CLIMB THE LADDER.

HE DOES, BUT HE STILL WANTS TO KNOW THAT YOU CARE FOR SOMETHING. THAT YOU HAVE DRIVE. THAT THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE OF YOU.
AS I KNOW THERE IS.

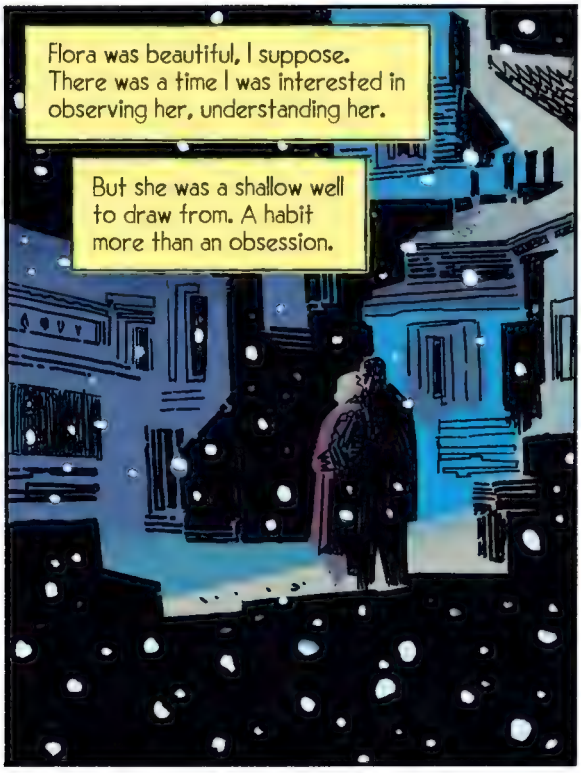
I think what I liked the most about Flora was that she didn't quite see anybody around her. She made her decisions about them, and that was that.

I can't recall her ever asking me what I thought of anything. And I don't think the answer would have particularly interested her.

I ADORE A NIGHT LIKE THIS.
THAT SLOW HEAVY SNOW. THE QUIET WAY IT BLOTS OUT THE FILTH OF THE CITY.
FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, IT'S LIKE THE WORLD IS PERFECT.

YOU THINK SO, TOO. DON'T YOU, JACK?
YES. YOU CAN HARDLY SEE ANYTHING.

A life of science is a life of sacrifice. There is a duty toward observation as your chief tenet. It suits me to sit apart from life.


Flora was beautiful, I suppose. There was a time I was interested in observing her, understanding her.
But she was a shallow well to draw from. A habit more than an obsession.

I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE LABORATORY.

I heard the sound of it first, before I had even turned on the lights.
An eerie noise. Panicked screeching and squeaking.
My first thought was that a stray cat may have gotten in. I rushed to the enclosure, afraid for my little friend.
What I saw then, horrified me. An animal response to blood and viscera.
I started to move to kill the creature killing my mice.
But curiosity stayed my hand. The revulsion passed.

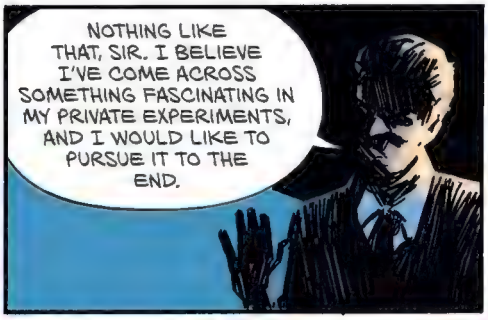
I had to ask myself, was this not a sign of greater intelligence?
After all, my rodent friend had been trapped for weeks among its lessers.
It knew it was smarter. It knew the others could not perceive it.
Day after day it must have watched them and grew angrier, until it could take the injustice no longer.
Until it simply had to make its dominance known.

I understood this implicitly.
I imagined sitting at Cranley's table, night after night, listening to the idle chatter of my inferiors, unperceived until a clear course of action presented itself in my mind.
Wouldn't I take it, too?
Was that perhaps the power of not being seen?
To be able to wait and formulate a plan until it was time to act?
To lie in wait, ready to strike.

DOCTOR CRANLEY, A WORD IF YOU WOULD.
GRIFFIN? OF COURSE, SON. OF COURSE. PLEASE COME IN.

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
I WANTED TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THE CHEMICAL BUDGET.

IS THERE SOMETHING THE MATTER? HAVE THOSE DEVILS STARTED TRYING TO DRIVE THE PRICES UP AGAIN?


NOTHING LIKE THAT, SIR. I BELIEVE I'VE COME ACROSS SOMETHING FASCINATING IN MY PRIVATE EXPERIMENTS, AND I WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE IT TO THE END.

ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?
NOT YET. I DON'T WANT TO GET AHEAD OF MYSELF.

YOU'VE PIQUED MY CURIOSITY. I'M GLAD, JACK. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A BRIGHT YOUNG MAN, BUT YOU NEVER SHOWED...
IT'S GOOD YOU'RE SHOWING THIS INTEREST. I'M EAGER TO SEE YOUR WORK WHEN YOU'RE READY TO SHARE IT.
BY ALL MEANS, GET WHAT YOU NEED. JUST LET ME KNOW IF THE BILL IS GOING TO PUT ME IN THE POOR HOUSE.
YES, SIR.
I'M EAGER FOR YOU TO SEE...THE END OF THIS. I DO THINK IT SHOULD BE RATHER REMARKABLE.
YOU'LL DRIVE ME MAD IF YOU KEEP TEASING ME WITH IT.
I'M SORRY. I JUST THINK...I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO SOMETHING THAT NOBODY ELSE IN THIS WORLD COULD DO. AND I THINK THIS MAY BE IT.
Kindness is an affectation. I've known that from childhood. It gets you things. Modest gains, but still measurable.

I know how to be kind when I have to be.
When I was younger, I sometimes thought there was an absence in me of true kindness that existed in others, but over the years, more and more, I see the false face everyone shows.
And I see when it falters, too. Cranley's face faltered at my genuine expression.
It said clearly what it did not wish to say.
He did not believe me capable.
He believed I would fail to achieve my aims.
The stupid man didn't realize that he was standing adjacent to a revolution in scientific discovery.
I thought of my little lab partner. I thought of how he handled this small-mindedness.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST IN ME, DOCTOR CRANLEY.
YES. YES, OF COURSE.

JUST HERE AT THE BOTTOM.
THANK YOU.
AH, SO YOU'RE KEEPING THE WORK SECRET.
YOUR RAT POISON.
EXCUSE ME?

I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK CRANLEY WOULD GO IN FOR THAT SORT OF THING. SUCH A KINDHEARTED MAN.
I'M NOT MAKING A POISON, KEMP.
OH, DEAR GOD, THEN I'M EVEN MORE KEEN TO KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT COOKING IN HERE, GRIFFIN.
I SAW ALL THE POOR LITTLE THINGS IN THE BIN THIS MORNING. DREADFUL SMELL.
MY WORK DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.
IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T. I HAVE MY OWN WORK TO CONTEND WITH. I DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT LOCKED IN THAT CUPBOARD.
IT'S THE INGREDIENTS OF THAT COCKTAIL WE TALKED ABOUT. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THE RECIPE'S JUST RIGHT.
AH! WELL, REMEMBER THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
I'M A GIN MAN. HAHAHAHA!

It began with the Monocaine. The Monocaine, a vicious little mouse, and my laboratory partner, Arthur Kemp.
I don't believe I would have pushed as quickly without all three working in perfect chemical reaction inside of me.
I knew that soon, the power in my little pet would live in me. That its freedom would be my own.
I simply needed larger and larger test subjects. To move my way through the animal kingdom until I landed upon myself.
It was only a matter of time before Kemp would understand. Before they all did.
SQUEAK
HEH.

FROM THE DESK OF JAMES TYNION IV

It was a few years ago now when Alex Antone sat me down at a bar near San Diego Comic-Con and told me that Skybound had picked up the license for Universal Monsters comics. I had just stepped away from superhero work, and had told myself I wasn't interested in any licensed characters. But as I sat there, my heart was telling me different. These icons helped define the horror genre, and I was desperate for the chance to get my hands on them. First off, I wanted one of the big guns. I set my eyes on Dracula, who I imagined right on the spot coming to life in Martin Simmonds' style. But right then in that first conversation, I told Alex I wanted him to hold another character in the roster... And that led to the comic that's in your hands today.

THE INVISIBLE MAN isn't like the other monsters in the Universal line. Sure, Dracula is a true monster, but he is deeply inhuman. But most of the other iconic Monsters are tragic figures who appeal your empathy. Jack Griffin is different. He is a very human monster, and over the course of his original film, brilliantly brought to life by the finest of Universal Monster directors, James Whale, he unleashes a psychopathic reign of terror over Britain. It was that psychopathy that drew me to the character. The question of telling a story that lays out how monstrous Griffin was before the effects of the Monocaine transformed him.

This comic is brought to life with the extraordinary art of DaNi, who I had the pleasure of working with on a few superhero projects, and who I've been desperate to work on something definitive with for years now. When I laid out the grisly tale I intended to tell about this twisted mad scientist at work, DaNi lit up and signed onboard immediately. And Brad Simpson's colors elevate it all with mood and grace.

Like the original, THE INVISIBLE MAN is meant to get under your skin. It's meant to make you wary of the horrors you can't see that lurk behind ordinary faces. The horror might be in the room with you, and you might not see it until it's too late.

James Tynion IV
7.9.2025

DANI SKETCHBOOK

CHARACTER STUDY

DANI
2024.

DANI
2024.

MONSTER MAIL

Got something to say? We want to hear from you! Email us at: **UniversalMonsters@skybound.com** and mark "OK TO PRINT!"

My fellow monsters!

Welcome back to the newest installment of our UNIVERSAL MONSTERS series – THE INVISIBLE MAN! And what a treat we have in store for y'all, with the return of the great James Tynion IV and the debut of DaNi & Brad Simpson! The Invisible Man aka Jack Griffin is arguably the most deplorable of the UNIVERSAL MONSTERS, and this team has cooked up a truly deranged take on his legendary descent into madness. Fair warning -- he definitely puts the monster in UNIVERSAL MONSTERS!

Also, a monster-sized shoutout to Skybound's newest assistant editor Caitlin Chappell! Welcome to the freak show... we hope you survive!

Looks like we still have a few letters in response to our previous series THE MUMMY by the incomparable Faith Erin Hicks, so let's get into it, shall we?

Hello!

I am really enjoying The Mummy. Fits right in with Creature from the Black Lagoon Lives, and Frankenstein, expanding, going-beyond, filmed storylines. Issue Two, I especially like page 9, where Helen gets into the cab, and comments why she liked him: "He wasn't so bad--". The pages looks good, have nice interior/exterior interplay, and read really well. And I also got a jump of excitement at your double-page full-page spread where they face off in 1939, and in the ether of all-time. Works nicely.
Thanks for a fun re-capture--

Matt Levin
Hatfield, MA

Hello, Matt! Thanks so much for the letter. Faith really outdid herself and I hope you enjoy the conclusion! The "interior/exterior interplay" was definitely something that attracted me to Faith's pitch. The idea that we could do a horrific love triangle with two people who shared the same body just felt like something I wanted to see.

Hi Monster Mail

I'm a big fan of the 1932 Mummy film and Revenge of the Mummy Ride at Universal (lol very specific, I know) I am loving the current Mummy series. I just finished #3 and I'm loving the pacing and tragedy of Ankh-es-en-amun and Imhotep. And getting to see young Helen trying to find her place in the world where she's being pulled between two worlds by fate. Having the princess and Helen converse and find friendship with each other to now be turned enemies in the same body is so exciting! And I love how Faith draws the supernatural elements and Lee's colours are keeping me engaged with every page. Very excited to read the conclusion!

Hailey
Vancouver, Canada

Hailey, I think you and I would be friends. Like I said to Matt above, the romance and tragedy of Imhotep and Ankh-es-en-amun is what really drew me to Faith's take, and I'm thrilled you were picking up what we were putting down. Let me know what you thought of the final issue, will ya?

As a longtime Universal Monsters fan (since collecting the VHS "Classic Collection" series as a kid in the 1990s!), I just wanted to write and say what a pleasure it's been to follow their new incarnations in comics form. From DRACULA through the current MUMMY series, seeing how these legendary characters are reinterpreted through new writers and artists -- bringing their unique touches while staying true to the essence of the characters -- has been very rewarding. Looking forward to (hopefully) much more to come!

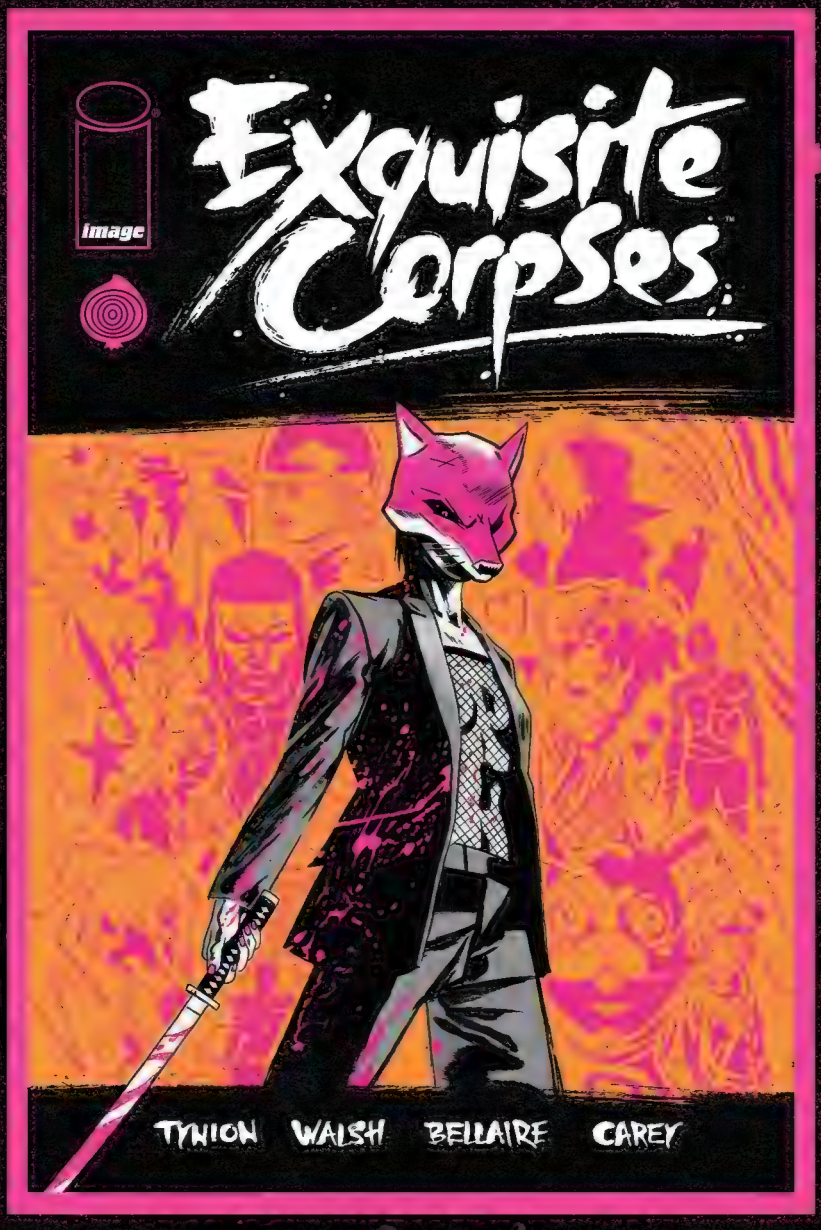
Brett Blake
Wisconsin

Brett! Aw, thank you! I'm glad you feel as rewarded reading the comics as we have felt making them. Every creator brings their own style and sensibility to these legendary characters, and it's been one of the great pleasures of my career to help bring these stories to life.

That's it for today! Let us know what you think of our new series and I'll see you next month! Until then, tell your local retailer to MAKE MINE MONSTERS!

Alex
Los Angeles, CA

THE HORROR EVENT OF THE YEAR IS HERE.



"Exquisite Corpses reads like the greatest Blumhouse movie never made. Allow Tynion and Walsh to invite you to a fascinating world of enthralling characters that gets you instantly hooked. You won't regret it."

–Robert Kirkman (The Walking Dead, Invincible)

HALLOWEEN COMES EARLY THIS YEAR

GREG NICOTERO PRESENTS AN EARLY KICKOFF TO SPOOKY SEASON WITH YOUR FAVORITE GHOULISH STORYTELLER AND FRIENDS JEREMY ADAMS, ROSIE KNIGHT, EDUARDO RISSO, OLIVER ONO, AND MORE!

THE SCARES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 2025

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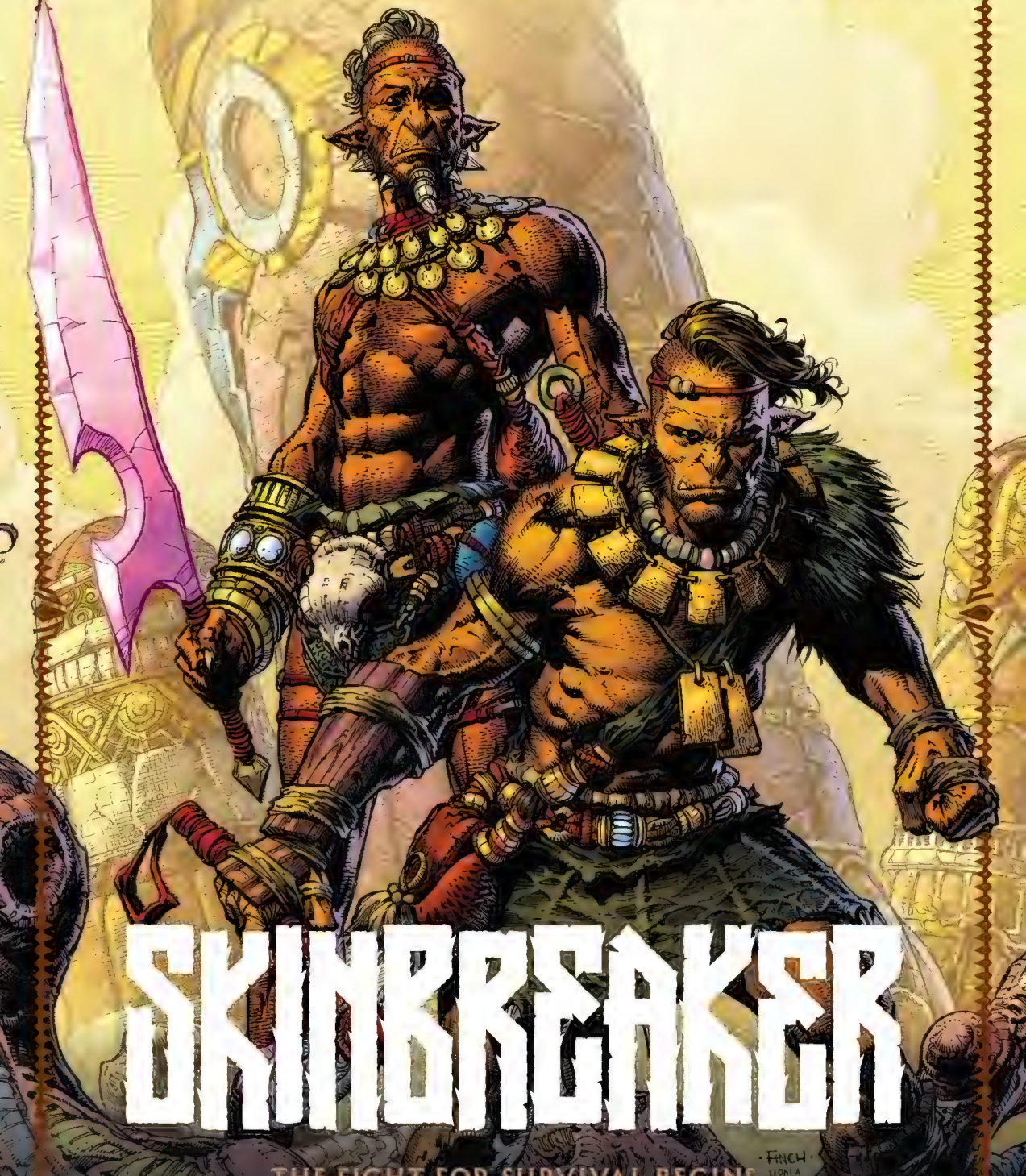
THE BIGGEST NEW ACTION SERIES OF THE YEAR FROM SUPERSTARS

ROBERT KIRKMAN & DAVID FINCH



SKINBREAKER

THE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL BEGINS

SEPTEMBER 2025

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image

ROBERT KIRKMAN AND DAN MORA BEGIN A NEW ERA

OVERSIZED

TRANSFORMERS

#25

THE

ENERGON UNIVERSE

CHANGES OCTOBER 2025

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NEXT ISSUE:

THINGS MEN SHOULD LEAVE ALONE!

MAIN COVER ART BY
DANI & BRAD SIMPSON

ISSUE TWO ON SALE
SEPTEMBER 24TH 2025

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DAVID AJA

JOSHUA MIDDLETON

ROSEMARY
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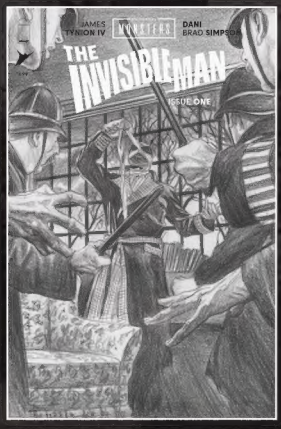
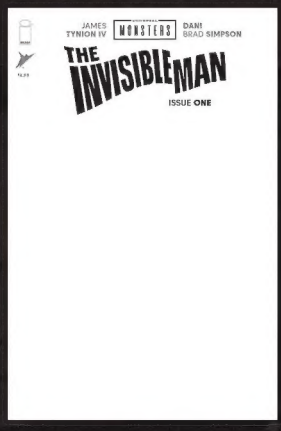


ALEX ROSS

CHRISTIAN WARD



CHRISTIAN WARD
SKETCH COVER

INVISIBLE COVER

INVISIBLE COVER

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